

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ADDIS 09696 191341Z

44-R
ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ONY-00 /009 W
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R 191234Z AUG 76
FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 622

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 9696

FOR AF/EX KRYZA FROM TIENKEN

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: APER (HAM, BRADFORD)
SUBJ: EXTENSION OF TOD, HAM, BRADFORD

REF: STATE 204115, ADDIS 1156

1. WHILE WE ARE AS INTERESTED AS AF/EX AND INSPECTORS IN MAINTAINING SMALLEST POSSIBLE STAFF IN ASMARA, WE ARE NOT REPEAT NO ON RECORD AS BEING IN FAVOR OF ABOLISHING ONE POSITION WHEN HAM DEPARTS, NOR DO WE SO RECOMMEND NOW. WE HAD AGREED WITH FORMER CONGEN SHERRY'S SUGGESTION THAT IT MIGHT BE WORTH A TRY TO RECRUIT COMBINED COMMUNICATOR/ ADMIN OFFICER, BUT NOT AT EXPENSE OF ABOLISHING POSITION (PARA 9 ADDIS REFTEL).

2. I BELEIVE SHERRY HAD BACKED AWAY FROM IDEA OF COMBINING TWO POSITIONS PRIOR TO HIS DEPARTURE, AND IN ANY CASE PRESENT CONGEN SLUTZ FELLS STRONGLY THAT IF HE IS TO PERFORM MISSION ENTRUSTED HIM, BOTH POSITIONS MUST BE FILLED. COMMUNICATIONS ARE VITAL TO ASMARA'S PERFORMANCE AND TO THEIR UNDERSTANDING OF SITUATION AT ANY GIVEN TIME. SLUTZ FEELS HE NEEDS TWO QUALIFIED COMMUNICATORS TO DO HIS JOB PROPERLY, AND I FEEL COMPELLED TO ACCEPT HIS JUDGMENT, PARTICULARLY SINCE WE HAD RESERVATIONS IN FIRST PLACE.

3. ACCORDINGLY, A) I DO NOT REPEAT NOT RECOMMEND ABOLITION OF ONE POSITION IN ASMARA, AND B) DO RECOMMEND HAM'S EXTENSION. I AM TOLD HAM IS AN EXCELLENT COMMUNICATOR,
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AND IF WE HAVE WHAT IN EFFECT IS A VOLUNTEER AND ESPECIALLY

ONE WHO KNOWS THE ASMARA ROPES, I BELIEVE WE SHOULD TAKE
ADVANTAGE OF HIS OFFER. I DO NOT BELIEVE THAT KEEPING
HAM ON NEED BE INTERPRETED AS VIOLATING INSPECTOR'S
RECOMMENDATION (9.1A-2) THAT ASMARA STAFF BE "REDUCED...
TO THE MINIMUM REQUIRED TO SERVICE NEEDS OF THE SKELETAL
STAFF AT KAGNEW AND RELATED INTERESTS." INSPECTORS DO NOT
DEFINE "RELATED INTERESTS," SINCE MAIN THRUST OF
THEIR REPORT LINKS CONGEN'S FUTURE TO THAT OF KAGNEW.
INDEED THEIR PRINCIPAL RECOMMENDATION IS 9.1A-1 WHICH
SUGGESTS CLOSING CONGEN IN STEP WITH PHASEDOWN OF KAGNEW.
HOWEVER, THERE IS NO PLAN THAT WE KNOW OF TO PHASEDOWN OR
CCLOSE KAGNEW, AND EVEN IF THERE WERE, WE WOULD NOT NECESSARILY
AGREE WITH THE RECOMMENDATION (PARA7, ADDIS 9577).
THOSE "RELATED INTERESTS" ARE ALSO OF IMPORTANCE TO US,
AND SO LONG AS THEY ARE, ASMARA MUST BE STAFFED TO COPE
WITH THEM AS WELL AS THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES VIS A VIS
KAGNEW.
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